

Volume 127, Number 13

Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

Tuesday, March 20, 2007

Students Choose Soph. Standing

Eligible 2010s Gain Exploratory Option, Lose ABC-No Record

By Swetha Kambhampati

STAFF REPORTER

This year, 111 of the 187 students eligible for attaining sophomore standing chose to do so, a two percent increase from last year. Electrical Engineering and Computer Science was the most declared course by students in this group.

Among these 111 students, 88 declared their major and 23 remained undeclared. The three top departments represented among students who declared their major were EECS (Course VI) with 22 students, Mathematics (Course XVIII) with 18 students, and Chemical Engineering (Course X) with 11 students.

"These numbers have been consistent with past years," said Julie B. Norman, director of Undergraduate Advising and Academic Programming.

Sophomore Standing Statistics

Graduation Year	Students Eligible	Declared Sophomore Standing	Top Majors Chosen
2010	187	111	VI, XVIII, X
2009	165	95	VI, VIII, XVIII
2008	189	114	VI, VIII, X
2007	145	93	VI, VIII, XVIII
2006	207	121	VI, VIII, X, XVIII

SOURCE: JULIE B. NORMAN, DIRECTOR OF UNDERGRAD. ADVISING AND ACADEMIC PROGRAMMING

ming. Almost every year, she said, 80 percent of those students who declare sophomore standing choose their major and a large percentage of those students remain declared with that major. In 2006, of 165 eligible students, 95 accepted sophomore standing. Refer to the table for more details on past sophomore standing numbers.

"Many students come to MIT well-prepared and in a position to move forward," Norman said. "From our perspective, we continue to emphasize that if students have a good idea of what they want to major in, it is a good idea to declare early sophomore standing." Declaring early sophomore standing allows students to immediately engage with faculty within their major of interest, interact with upperclassmen earlier, start an Undergraduate Research Opportuni-

ties Program, and reaffirm that their major is the right choice for them, according to Norman.

Andrea E. Robles '10 was offered sophomore standing but declined, saying she was unsure of a major and was in no hurry to go ahead as a sophomore.

"I enjoy being a freshman," said Robles, who praised the ABC-No record system. "Some people in my seminar [advising group] took sophomore standing ... but my first term didn't go so great."

For those who accept sophomore standing, the freshman credit limit does not apply.

"I wanted to do a UROP," said Robles, "but could only apply for three units due to the freshman credit limit even though I do about thirteen hours of work a week."

"We always push that the reason to take sophomore standing should not be to exceed the freshman credit limit," Norman said.

She explained that there is nothing wrong for a student to not declare his or her major until sophomore year, as this allows more time to engage and explore. "These students can use the flexibility they have in their schedule to explore more."

Sophomore, Page 13



ERIC SCHMIEDL—THE TECH

Friday's snowstorm was severe enough that snow piled up on the J.B. Carr Tennis Bubble, causing it to partially collapse.

Class Council Election Issue Resolved

The arguments surrounding the candidacy of Prashant K. Dilwali '08 were resolved by an Undergraduate Association JudBoard ruling on Sunday, March 18. Dilwali, whose candidacy was previously contested over a late ballot application, was appealing a decision by the UA Election Commission Rules Board. The Rules Board asserted that Dilwali had violated campaign rules by forming a Facebook group before public campaigning began.

Briefs, Page 10

News Briefs

UA Voting Site Records Inaccurate

Turnout Possibly Affected by Disenfranchisement of FSILG Members

By Nick Semenkovich

ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

The Undergraduate Association voting Web site (<http://vote.mit.edu>) has experienced problems over the last few days as some users have been unable to vote without contacting the Election Commission. Michelle Jeong '08, chair of the UA Election Commission, attributed the problem to lists provided by MIT

that describe class affiliation and housing. She said that inaccuracies in those lists have commonly led to voting troubles.

Joseph W. Presbrey '08, who runs the voting Web site, said that voter disenfranchisement is "a regular occurrence in every election" and does not encompass a substantial portion of the population. Others, however, claim that the problem is more wide-

spread, possibly affecting the majority of sophomores who have moved into Greek houses.

Akash A. Chandawarkar '09, president of the Class of 2009, was concerned that many students were unable to vote. "It's going to play a big role if this is as widespread as it seems," said Chandawarkar.

UA, Page 12



Filming for the movie adaptation of Ben Mezrich's *Bringing Down the House* took place in front of Killian Court on Monday afternoon. Here, (left to right) Kameron (Sam Golzari), Ben Campbell (Jim Sturgess), and Miles (Josh Gad) walk down the sidewalk as part of a scene.

In Short

¶ A passport is required to reenter the United States for all persons, including U.S. citizens, travelling by air from Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean, and Bermuda. This is true even if the foreign country visited does not require a passport to enter from the US.

¶ Spring Break shuttle service to

Logan Airport will be available Friday, March 23 and Saturday, March 24 through the Parking and Transportation Office. The cost is \$7. Visit <http://web.mit.edu/facilities/transportation/shuttles/airport.html> for details and shuttle availability.

¶ The Physical Education lottery closes this Wednesday, March 21 at noon.

NEWS

Scheib offers pop culture video.

Page 11

Secrets of the Universe revealed at MIT.

Page 13

OPINION

Undergraduate Association candidates endorsed

Page 4

Fourth anniversary of the Iraq War

Page 5

World & Nation	2
Opinion	4
Campus Life	6
Comics / Fun Pages	7
Sports	16

WORLD & NATION

Bush Pleads For Patience in Iraq On War's Anniversary

By Jim Rutenberg
and David E. Sanger
THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON President Bush marked the fourth anniversary of the invasion of Iraq on Monday with a stark warning against the temptation "to pack up and go home."

Bush's brief speech came in the midst of an increasingly tense showdown with the Democratic-controlled Congress over the constitutional balance of power during war. The House is scheduled to vote Thursday on a Democratic proposal to attach conditions to the president's \$100 million war-funding package that would require American combat troops to be withdrawn from Iraq next year, a timetable Bush has said would undercut the troops and aid the insurgents.

Bush's commemoration of the anniversary, delivered beneath a portrait of Theodore Roosevelt as a Rough Rider, was notable for the sharp change in tone from his speeches in the heady, early days of the war — when it still appeared possible that a quick victory in Baghdad could be followed by a relatively swift withdrawal. In those first few months, Bush argued that he was on the way to spreading democracy throughout the entire Middle East through the contagious euphoria that would surely follow the unseating Saddam Hussein.

Climate Papers Watered Down

By Andrew C. Revkin
and Matthew L. Wald
THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

A House committee released documents Monday that showed hundreds of instances in which a White House official who was previously an oil-industry lobbyist edited government climate reports to play up uncertainty or play down evidence of a human role in global warming.

In a hearing of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, the official, Philip A. Cooney, who left government in 2005, defended the changes he made in government reports over several years, saying the editing was part of the normal White House review process and reflected findings in a climate report written for President Bush by the National Academy of Sciences in 2001.

They were the first public statements on the issue by Cooney, the former chief of staff of the White House Council on Environmental Quality. Before joining the White House, Cooney was the "climate team leader" for the American Petroleum Institute, the main industry lobby in Washington.

Detainee Says He Was Abused While in U.S. Custody

By Raymond Bonner
THE NEW YORK TIMES

LONDON

David Hicks, the first detainee to be formally charged under the new military tribunal rules at Guantanamo Bay, has alleged in a court document filed here that during nearly five years in U.S. custody he was beaten several times during interrogations and witnessed the abuse of other prisoners.

In an affidavit supporting his request for British citizenship, Hicks contends that before he arrived at Guantanamo, his American captors threw him and other detainees on the ground, walked on them, stripped him naked, shaved all his body hair and inserted a plastic object in his rectum.

The abuse, Hicks asserts, began during interrogations in Afghanistan, where he was captured in late 2001. It then continued while he was shuttled between American naval ships, aircraft, unknown buildings and Kandahar before he was taken to the military detention center at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, in early 2002, according to the affidavit.

Failings of Global Effort Seen In South Africa TB Outbreak

By Lawrence K. Altman
THE NEW YORK TIMES

LOS ANGELES

The spread of a particularly virulent form of tuberculosis in South Africa illustrates a breakdown in the global program that is supposed to keep the disease, one of the world's deadliest, under control.

The program was intended to detect tuberculosis cases, make sure patients were taking their antibiotics, test patients for resistance to those drugs and monitor the spread of the disease.

But international tuberculosis experts say the system is in deep trouble for an array of reasons: misuse of antibiotics; other bad medical practices, like failing to segregate high-risk patients in hospitals and clinics; and cuts in government spending for such basics as adequate supplies of drugs and laboratories to do the testing.

Such factors have led to the rise of drug-resistant tuberculosis bacteria, a menace the world has only begun to appreciate.

Mycobacterium tuberculosis, the microbe that causes the disease, was discovered 125 years ago this month. Today, the bacteria infect 8.8 million people a year and cause 1.6 million

deaths. They are spread in tiny droplets when patients cough.

Tuberculosis is curable, as long as the bacteria are susceptible to antibiotics. It becomes deadlier when it attacks people who are also infected with HIV, the AIDS virus. And when the tuberculosis bacteria become extremely drug-resistant, the death rate soars.

That was the case in Tugela Ferry, a rural town in KwaZulu-Natal province in South Africa, when an outbreak of extremely drug-resistant tuberculosis — XDR-TB for short — killed 52 of its 53 victims, all of whom were also infected with HIV. The outbreak was detected in 2005, but it did not receive international attention until it was reported at the international AIDS meeting in Toronto last August.

The World Health Organization calls the extremely drug-resistant form "a grave public health threat" because of its potential explosiveness among the millions of HIV-infected people in poor countries. It seems to be a lesser threat among people who do not have HIV, though it could be dangerous to the millions with weakened immune systems from treatment for cancer and other diseases.

XDR-TB is defined as tuberculosis that is resistant to the two most important anti-tuberculosis drugs (isoniazid and rifampin), along with two other drugs: a member of the fluoroquinolone class and at least one of three others (capreomycin, kanamycin and amikacin).

A step lower on the resistance scale is a form of the disease called MDR-TB, for multidrug-resistant tuberculosis. An outbreak of that form struck in New York City in the early 1990s, and cost at least \$1 billion in emergency measures to control and manage tuberculosis patients.

Experts say the tuberculosis outbreak in South Africa is the deadliest one that they can recall.

Although South African officials, who have known of the outbreak for a year, promised a prompt and full investigation, even experts there acknowledge that efforts are lagging.

"Unfortunately, we do not know much more than a year ago" mainly because "a systematic survey in each of the provinces has not yet started," Dr. Karin Weyer of the South African Medical Research Council told the Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections here recently.

Back Taxes Unchecked By Gov't As Doctors Accumulate Wealth

By Robert Pear
THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

Thousands of doctors and other health professionals who participate in Medicare are delinquent in paying federal income and payroll taxes, owing more than \$1.3 billion, but they continue to receive Medicare payments because the government does little to check their background, federal investigators said Monday.

"Many of these individuals accumulated substantial wealth and assets, including million-dollar houses and luxury vehicles, while failing to pay their federal taxes," the investigators said. "One physician gambled millions of dollars at the same time the individual owed hundreds of thousands of dollars in federal taxes."

The findings are set forth in a report from the Government Account-

ability Office, a nonpartisan watchdog agency, to the Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, which plans to hold a hearing on the problem Tuesday.

Medicare has no mechanism to prevent doctors who are delinquent on their taxes from receiving the payments, the report said.

Gregory D. Kutz, director of forensic audits and special investigations at the GAO, said more than 21,000 health care providers, mostly doctors, had tax debts totaling \$1.3 billion as of last Sept. 30. That amount reflects tax liabilities that have been acknowledged by taxpayers or certified by a court. The number almost certainly understates the amount owed because it does not include the obligations of people who failed to file tax returns or understated their incomes, Kutz said.

About half the amount owed was individual income taxes and 41 percent was payroll taxes. Other taxes, including corporate income and exercise taxes, accounted for the remainder.

Some doctors withheld payroll taxes from their employees and then used the money to buy new homes or to finance their businesses rather than sending it to the government, the auditors said.

"Our investigation found abusive and potentially criminal activity," including willful failure to pay taxes, Kutz said in testimony prepared for the hearing.

When an employer withholds taxes from a worker's wages, the employer has a duty to hold the money "in trust" for the government, and willful failure to send the money to the government is a felony under federal law, Kutz said.

WEATHER

Spring Snow?

By Cegeon Chan
STAFF METEOROLOGIST

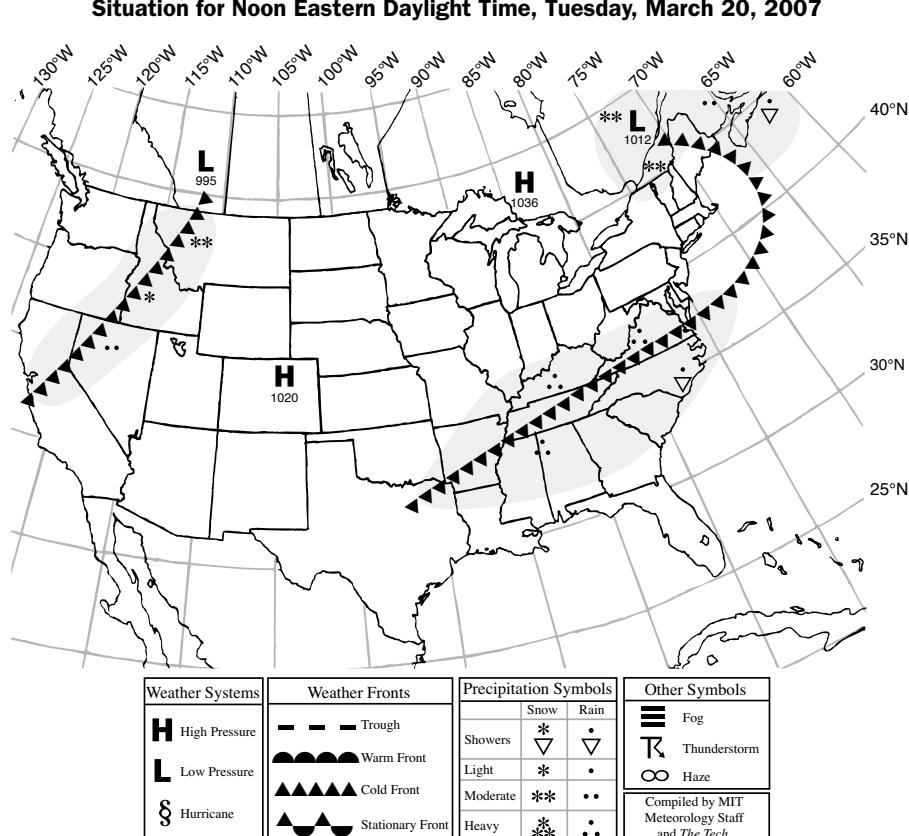
This weekend's snowfall was eight inches, but it could have been a lot more. With the air temperature close enough to freezing, most of the snowflakes were in the form of wet snow. With all the ice, sleet, and rain at the tail end of the storm, the snow to liquid ratio was only 4:1. On average, a winter storm's ratio is 10:1 and when the temperature is around 20°F, the ratio can get up to 20:1. Thus, if we had gotten the "fluff" factor, Boston could have received 40 inches of snow! Nonetheless, the observed eight inches more than doubled the season's low snow totals and cost us our chance at setting the lowest recorded snowfall total (9") ever in Boston.

Despite an overnight dusting of fresh snow, spring arrives today (8:07 p.m.). So, is it time to bring home all that winter gear during Spring Break? Well, among other things, with the jet stream receding poleward, computer models predict no spring snow storms over the next fifteen days. In fact, after today and tomorrow's cool northerly winds, the winds will shift towards the southwest on Thursday. This allows for strong warm air advection, and temperatures are expected to approach near 70°F on Friday. It'll really feel like spring then.

Extended Forecast

Today: Mostly sunny and windy. West winds 20 to 25 mph with gusts up to 40 mph. Cold. High 40°F (4°C).
Tonight: Mostly clear and remaining blustery. Cold. West winds 15 to 25 mph. Low 13°F (-10°C).
Tomorrow: Mostly sunny. Cool. High 40°F (4°C).
Thursday: Mostly cloudy. Warmer. High 60°F (15°C).
Friday: Mostly cloudy. High 70°F (21°C)

Situation for Noon Eastern Daylight Time, Tuesday, March 20, 2007



State Farm Insurance Casts Off Judge in New Hurricane Plans

By Joseph B. Treaster
THE NEW YORK TIMES

After more than eight weeks of stalemate over a federal court agreement to reopen thousands of insurance claims from Hurricane Katrina in Mississippi, State Farm said Monday that it would work instead through state regulators. The new plan would speed the flow of money to storm victims but they would lose the court's oversight.

State Farm, Mississippi's largest insurer, said it would follow the general terms of the agreement that it had worked out with trial lawyers and presented to Judge L.T. Senter Jr. of U.S. District Court, in January. Both plans would affect as many as 36,000 homeowners. State Farm, which has already paid out \$1.1 billion in Mississippi, said it would pay at least \$50 million under the new plan and perhaps several hundred million more.

But State Farm offered no improvements to the initial agreement, which Senter had repeatedly said appeared to be tilted in favor of the insurance company and had refused to approve. Under the new arrangement,

State Farm will bypass Senter, and its dealings with storm victims will be approved and supervised by state regulators.

"We are moving from a legal environment to the regulatory environment," said Phil Supple, a State Farm spokesman.

Senter would not comment Monday. One of his clerks, speaking on condition of anonymity because he does not want to become part of the public debate, suggested that the judge cared more about resolving the case than who was supervising it. "The judge is all for anything and anyone who wants to move these cases toward resolution," the clerk said. But, he added, the judge could still call both sides back into court.

Gov. Haley Barbour said State Farm's new approach was "great news" and would get money flowing to homeowners who have been unable to rebuild, more than 20 months after Hurricane Katrina devastated the Gulf Coast. Insurance regulators and other state officials said they shared Senter's concerns, but had been frustrated by the pace of the court proceeding and wanted to get

money to storm victims even if the terms were not ideal.

"This may not be for some consumers," said Lee Harrell, the deputy insurance commissioner in Mississippi. "They still may think it's not good enough. However, we believe that this will allow additional claims to be resolved."

The dispute in Mississippi has been over whether homes were wrecked by floodwaters or high winds or both. The insurers said their policies pay for wind damage but not for flooding. In many cases, the insurers have refused to pay claims on homes that were destroyed by both wind and water. In others, lawyers for victims have said, they have underpaid for wind damage.

Insurance experts and lawyers outside the case said they expected a flurry of new lawsuits. "People have now been informed that a federal judge thinks the settlement was not rich enough," said Randy Maniloff, a lawyer in Philadelphia who represents insurance companies. "And it's going to be easy for lawyers to convince them they're not giving up much by foregoing this settlement opportunity."

McCain and Brownback Discover Immigration is Big Issue For Iowans

By Adam Nagourney
THE NEW YORK TIMES

DES MOINES, IOWA

Immigration, an issue that has divided Republicans in Washington for the last several years, is reverberating across the party's presidential campaign field, causing particular complications for Sen. John McCain of Arizona.

The topic came up repeatedly in recent campaign swings through Iowa by McCain and Sen. Sam Brownback of Kansas, another Republican who, like McCain, supports giving some illegal immigrants a path to citizenship, a position that puts them at odds with many other conservatives. Both candidates faced intensive questioning from voters on the issue, which has become more prominent in the state as immigrants are playing an increasingly visible role in the economy and society.

"Immigration is probably a more powerful issue here than almost anywhere that I've been," McCain said after a town meeting in Cedar Falls.

As he left Iowa, McCain said he was reconsidering his views on

how the immigration law might be changed. He said he was open to legislation that would require people who came to the United States illegally to return home before applying for citizenship, a measure proposed by Rep. Mike Pence, R-Ind. McCain has previously favored legislation that would allow most illegal immigrants to become citizens without leaving the country.

Beyond whatever influence it has as the state whose caucuses kick off the presidential nominating contest, Iowa has become something of a laboratory for the politics of immigration. Not only is it a place where industries like meatpacking rely heavily on immigrant workers and where a once relatively homogenous population is confronting an influx of Hispanic residents, but the presidential candidates who are crisscrossing the state are also providing forums for Iowans to express their views and influence national policy.

On Saturday morning in Des Moines, Brownback stood for 30 minutes at a breakfast with Republicans as question after question — without exception — was directed at

an immigration system that Iowans denounced as failing. "These people are stealing from us," said Larry Smith, a factory owner from Truro and a member of the central committee of the state Republican Party.

Finally, Brownback, with a slight smile, inquired, "Any other topics that people want to talk about?"

The issue has become much more complicated as the presidential campaign has gotten underway, exposing the Republicans in particular to voters who are angry about what they see as porous borders, growing demands from immigrants on the social welfare and education systems and job losses that they link at least in part to a low-wage labor force coming over the border.

McCain, for example, appeared to distance himself from Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, the Massachusetts Democrat with whom he formed an alliance last year on an immigration bill that stalled in Congress.

"What I've tried to point out is we couldn't pass the legislation," McCain said. "So we have to change the legislation so it can pass."

Senate Moves to Prohibit Unconfirmed Appointment of Federal Prosecutors

By Carl Hulse
and Sheryl Gay Stolberg
THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

The Senate moved Monday to revoke new authority it granted the Bush administration last year to name federal prosecutors, with Democrats accusing the administration of abusing the appointment power at the center of an escalating clash over the firing of eight U.S. attorneys.

The move to overturn an obscure provision of the USA Patriot Act, which allowed the attorney general to appoint federal prosecutors for an indefinite period without Senate confirmation, came amid growing speculation that the controversy over the prosecutors would cost Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales his job.

President Bush has said he has confidence in Gonzales, but the White House seemed to offer only tepid support for him on Monday.

"Nobody is prophetic enough to know what the next 21 months hold," the White House press secretary, Tony Snow, said when asked if Gon-

zales would remain until the end of Bush's term. Bush has said Gonzales needs to repair his relations with Capitol Hill; asked if the attorney general had done so, Snow said, "I don't know."

At the Justice Department, neither Gonzales nor his staff have engaged in a major effort to reverse the erosion of his support among Republicans in Congress, associates said. Gonzales read budget briefing books over the weekend and on Monday he phoned one or two lawmakers, according to one aide, who declined to identify them.

Gonzales, who publicly apologized last week for his department's handling of the dismissals, also acknowledged mistakes in a conference call with U.S. attorneys over the weekend.

On Capitol Hill on Monday, Rep. Nancy Pelosi, the Democratic speaker of the House, joined a chorus of lawmakers who are calling for Gonzales to leave the administration.

"I believe we need a new attorney general," Pelosi told the editorial

board of The Chicago Tribune.

Members of both parties expressed support for repealing the Patriot Act provision, expected to be approved Tuesday. Lawmakers said the provision amounted to an end run around senators, who have long had influence in the appointment of home-state prosecutors. Some senators said the provision was used to clear the way for firing prosecutors and replacing them with candidates considered more in line with the administration.

"We can't trust this administration to use that authority in a fair and constructive manner," said Sen. Mark Pryor, D-Ark., who helped begin an inquiry into the dismissals by objecting to the administration's choice for his state. "They have proven it to us."

As the Senate prepared to repeal the provision, the new chief counsel to Bush, Fred F. Fielding, spent Monday preparing a response for Democrats who are demanding testimony from Karl Rove and other top aides to Bush, including the former counsel, Harriet E. Miers.

Russia Objects to UN Plan For Kosovo as 'One-Sided'

By Warren Hoge
THE NEW YORK TIMES

UNITED NATIONS

Russia on Monday signaled its opposition to the United Nations proposal to settle the status of Kosovo, Serbia's breakaway province, and said a new negotiator should be named and fresh talks started.

Vitaly I. Churkin, the Russian ambassador, made the comments in accusing a U.N. official who briefed a closed session of the Security Council of "preaching for independence" of Kosovo.

"He read a sermon to the council," Churkin said of the presentation by Joachim Rucker, a special envoy. He called the presentation "extremely one-sided and unhelpful."

The plan, negotiated over 13 months by Martti Ahtisaari, a former president of Finland, grants Kosovo de facto nationhood — an army, a constitution and a flag — to be overseen by a European Union-led mission to provide protection for the province's ethnic Serbs, who are in the minority.

Ahtisaari is expected to turn the plan over to the Security Council next Monday.

Though it studiously avoids the word independence, the proposal is seen as setting the stage for such a declaration by the province. That is a development championed by the ethnic Albanians who make up 90 percent of the population but objected to vigorously by Serbia and Russia.

Al-Qaida Operative Admits to Role in Embassy, Cole Attacks

By Adam Liptak
THE NEW YORK TIMES

A top operative of al-Qaida has acknowledged his role in the bombings of two U.S. Embassies in Africa in 1998 and in the attack on the destroyer Cole off Yemen in 2000, according to a hearing transcript released on Monday by the Pentagon.

The operative, Walid bin Attash, who is also known as Khalad, made his statement, according to the transcript, to a combatant status review tribunal on March 12 at the U.S. naval base in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

The tribunal will determine whether bin Attash has been properly designated an enemy combatant, which would make him subject to indefinite military detention. He may also be charged with war crimes before a separate tribunal known as a military commission.

During the status review tribunal, an official whose name was not released asked bin Attash to outline his role in the three attacks.

"Many roles," bin Attash said, according to the transcript and apparently speaking through a translator. "I participated in the buying or purchasing of the explosives. I put together the plan for the operation a year and a half prior to the operation. Buying the boat and recruiting the members that did the operation."

He added that he had been with Osama bin Laden in Kandahar, Afghanistan, at the time of the attack on the Cole.

"And at the time of the embassy attacks?" an unidentified member of the tribunal asked.

Zimbabwe's Crackdown Reaches Opposition Grass Roots

By Michael Wines
THE NEW YORK TIMES

JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA

There were indications on Monday that the Zimbabwean government's violent crackdown on its political critics was spreading from widely reported assaults on opposition leaders to less public attacks and threats against local activists and their supporters.

In Harare, Zimbabwe's capital, a civic group reported a series of attacks on Sunday and Monday on neighborhood activists and local leaders of the nation's main opposition party, the Movement for Democratic Change.

The group, the Combined Harare Residents Association, reported assaults on two political activists, one of whom was shot, and arrests and threats against two others.

The group's spokesman, Precious Shumba, said in an interview that there were reports of beatings of others who had been taken outside the city by police officers, then arrested. Those reports could not be independently verified.

But one of the nation's leading advocates of political reform, Lovemore Madhuku of the National Constitutional Assembly, said Monday in a telephone interview that the violence was growing.

"There is some systematic following of all key activists and trying to intimidate them, either by making them run away from their homes or beating them up," he said.

Lebanese Army Tightens Security At Camp to Press Militants

By Nada Bakri
THE NEW YORK TIMES

BEIRUT, LEBANON

The Lebanese army maintained a heavy presence on Monday in a Palestinian refugee camp in northern Lebanon where an Islamic militant group blamed for deadly bus bombings in February is based, army officials and camp residents said.

Soldiers set up checkpoints, searching cars going in and out of the Nahr al-Bared refugee camp, preventing reporters and Lebanese citizens from going in and students who study outside the camp from leaving to go to school, residents who were reached by phone said.

The security measures followed last week's arrest of four men who authorities said are members of Fatah al-Islam, the militant group that has set up operations in the camp. The interior minister, Hassan Sabaa, has said the four men confessed to the bombings.

"They tightened security measures and we understand their concerns, but it has become impossible for us to move," a camp resident who gave his name as Abu Louay and who is a member of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, a Palestinian faction, said by phone.

A Lebanese military official familiar with the operation said the security measures will remain in place because the leaders of the militant group and those who planned the bus bombings are assumed to be inside the camp.

OPINION



Chairman
Michael McGraw-Herdeg '08

Editor in Chief
Marie Y. Thibault '08

Business Manager
Cokie Hu '08

Managing Editor
Austin Chu '08

Executive Editor
Rosa Cao G

NEWS STAFF

Editors: Benjamin P. Gleitzman '09, Angeline Wang '09; **Associate Editors:** Valery K. Brabbey '08, Nick Semenovich '09, JiHye Kim '10, Joyce Kwan '10; **Staff:** Curt Fischer G, John A. Hawkinson '98, Waseem S. Daher '07, Ray C. He '07, Kristina M. Holton '07, Hanhan Wang '07, Jiao Wang '08, Daniela Cako '09, Mei-Hsin Cheng '09, Gabriel Fouasnon '09, Hannah Hsieh '09, Diana Jue '09, Ji Qi '09, Yinuo Qian '09, Yi Zhou '09, Nick Bushak '10, Swetha Kambhampati '10, Apoorva Murarka '10, Manisha Padi '10, Joanne Y. Shih '10; **Meteorologists:** Cegeon Chan G, Jon Moskaitis G, Michael J. Ring G, Roberto Rondanelli G, Scott Stransky G, Brian H. Tang G, Tim Whitcomb G, Angela Zalucha G.

PRODUCTION STAFF

Editor: Jessica Witchley '10; **Staff:** Emily Ko '08, K. Nichole Treadaway '10.

OPINION STAFF

Editor: Aditya Kohli '09; **Staff:** Josh Levinger '07, Justin Wong '07, Ali S. Wyne '08, Krishna Gupta '09.

SPORTS STAFF

Editors: Travis Johnson '08, Caroline Huang '10; **Associate Editor:** Ryan Lamphere '06; **Staff:** James Zorich '08, Albert Ni '09.

ARTS STAFF

Editor: Jillian A. Berry '08; **Associate Editor:** Sarah Dupuis '10; **Staff:** Bogdan Fedeles G, Kapil Amarnath '07, Tony Hwang '07, Andrew Lee '07, Alice MacDonald '08, Tanya Goldhaber '10, Tina Ro '10.

PHOTOGRAPHY STAFF

Editors: Ricardo Ramirez '09, Eric D. Schmiedl '09; **Associate Editor:** Omari Stephens '08; **Staff:** David Da He G, Stanley Hu '00, Scott Johnston '03, Yun Wu '06, Gheorghe Chistol '07, Fred Gay '07, Grant Jordan '07, Dmitry Kashlev '07, Christine Moran '07, Martin Segado '07, Christina Kang '08, Arthur Petron '08, David Reshef '08, David M. Templeton '08, Jerzy Szablowski '09, Daniel P. Beauboeuf '10, Mindy Eng '10, Catherine Huang '10, Bea Jarrett '10, Samuel E. Kronick '10, Diane Rak '10, Aaron Sampson '10, Jongu Shin '10, William Yee '10.

CAMPUS LIFE STAFF

Editor: Bill Andrews '05; **Staff:** Bruce Wu G, Kailas Narendran '01, Elizabeth Zakszewski '06, Victor Cabral '07, Janet S. Lieberman '07, Ruth Miller '07, Matt Zedler '07; **Cartoonists:** Scott Burdick G, John David Payne G, Roberto Perez-Franco G, Emezie Okorafor '03, Jia Lou '07, Andrew Spann '07, Ash Turza '08, Danbee Kim '09.

BUSINESS STAFF

Advertising Managers: Neeharika Bhartiya '10, Ritu Tandon '10; **Operations Manager:** Zachary Ozer '07; **Staff:** Jeffrey Chang '08, Tai Ho Kang '08, Jennifer Chu '10, Michael Kuo '10, Heymian Wong '10.

TECHNOLOGY STAFF

Director: Shreyes Seshasai '08.

EDITORS AT LARGE

Contributing Editors: Tiffany Dohzen G, Brian Hemond G; **Senior Editor:** Satwiksai Seshasai G.

ADVISORY BOARD

Paul E. Schindler, Jr. '74, V. Michael Bove '83, Barry Surman '84, Robert E. Malchman '85, Deborah A. Levinson '91, Jonathan E. D. Richmond PhD '91, Saul Blumenthal '98, Frank Dabek '00, Daniel Ryan Bersak '02, Eric J. Cholankeril '02, Jordan Rubin '02, Nathan Collins SM '03, Keith J. Winstein '03, Akshay R. Patil '04, Kelley Rivoire '06, Beckett W. Stern '06, Marissa Vogt '06, B. D. Colen.

PRODUCTION STAFF FOR THIS ISSUE

Editors: Tiffany Dohzen G, Michael McGraw-Herdeg '08; **Staff:** Ricardo Ramirez '09.

The Tech (ISSN 0148-9607) is published on Tuesdays and Fridays during the academic year (except during MIT vacations), Wednesdays during January, and monthly during the summer by The Tech, Room W20-483, 84 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, Mass. 02139. Subscriptions are \$45.00 per year (third class) and \$105.00 (first class). **POSTMASTER:** Please send all address changes to our mailing address: The Tech, P.O. Box 397029, Cambridge, Mass. 02139-7029. **TELEPHONE:** Editorial: (617) 253-1541. Business: (617) 258-8324. Facsimile: (617) 258-8226. Advertising, subscription, and typesetting rates available. Entire contents © 2007 *The Tech*. Printed on recycled paper by Charles River Publishing.

Corrections

Due to an egregious editing error, the March 16 piece written about Ronald H. Stowell's death mistakenly reported that he was charged with sexual assault and battery. He was actually charged with assault and battery.

To clarify the March 16 editorial "Mediocre at Best," it should be noted that the Student Committee on Administrative Transparency and Relations does not currently have any members and has not met since the beginning of the 2006-2007 school year. However, the bill providing for the committee's existence has not been eliminated.

Letters To The Editor

"Social Justice" at MIT

Over the past month, two events concerning Israel's role in the Middle East have occurred at MIT. While the forum sponsored by MIT's School of Humanities Arts and Social Sciences and the Social Justice Cooperative [sic] featuring Rabbi Weiss and Imam al-Asi has received most of the attention, an enlightening talk was held last Thursday. Without much fanfare or support by the MIT administration, women's rights activist Yael Dayan spoke about sexual equality in Israel and the Middle East.

After hearing about both events, I was surprised that the SJC would sponsor the former event and not the latter. Weiss and al-Asi support religious viewpoints that conflict with modern views of equality for women and homosexuals; Dayan has fought tirelessly for sexual equality. Weiss and al-Asi regularly denigrate Israel — the sole country in the region that provides equal rights to men and women, regardless of sexual orientation; Dayan has worked with Israeli leadership to help extend protection to all people in Israel. While all of Israel's neighbors oppress women and routinely execute homosexuals, Israel grants asylum to the persecuted within her small borders.

As a result, I am left to wonder what the SJC actually is fighting for. Israel is a world leader with respect to her independent judiciary, her respect of individual and group rights, feminist causes, protection and support of racial and religious minorities and the LGBT community. While not perfect, Israel has done a better job than any other country facing similar external challenges in the history of humanity. As a libertarian and a supporter of human rights, I am left with no choice but to regularly affirm my support for the State of Israel. If the SJC really is as progressive and supportive of social justice as they claim to be, I challenge their members to support speakers like Dayan and oppose Weiss and al-Asi in the future.

Matya Y. Gilbert-Schachter '05

Kelch and Oldja Offer Concrete and Realistic Goals

I applaud *The Tech*'s shrewd analysis and endorsement in the upcoming election. An involved and effective Undergraduate Association runs on more than just Class Council parties, slick slogans and enthusiasm.

This year, I am voting for Lauren Oldja and

Steve Kelch for UA President and Vice President.

Ms. Oldja has a consistent record of competence and dedication. I have had the pleasure of serving with her on the ASA Executive Board. Her knowledge of student group finances and procedures is encyclopedic, and her work with the Housing Office and DormCon resulted in concrete improvements to REX.

Mr. Kelch is a personable, effective and knowledgeable leader. As Speaker of the Senate, he brought administrators in as guest speakers and enforced order in the Senate. As Senator, he fought for transparency within the Institute. His ability to get to the heart of an issue always impressed me; he is the antithesis of superficial.

Ms. Oldja and Mr. Kelch's platform is a pragmatic list of specific, substantial improvements. Their proposed small-events alcohol policy, support for student group startup funds and focus on affordable textbooks are all excellent. You can find it online at vote.oldja.com.

Too many candidates pay lip service to the hacking community and REX without any first-hand understanding of the needs or inner workings of either. Ms. Oldja's ticket does not have this problem; it is genuine, relevant, and practical in a way that the others are not.

Dennis V. Perepelitsa '08



Opinion Policy

Editorials are the official opinion of *The Tech*. They are written by the editorial board, which consists of Chairman Michael McGraw-Herdeg, Editor in Chief Marie Y. Thibault, Managing Editor Austin Chu, Executive Editor Rosa Cao, and Opinion Editors Barun Singh and Aditya Kohli.

Dissents are the opinions of signed members of the editorial board choosing to publish their disagreement with the editorial.

Letters to the editor, columns, and editorial cartoons are written by individuals and represent the opinion of the author, not necessarily that of the newspaper. Electronic submissions are encouraged and should be sent to letters@the-tech.mit.edu. Hard copy submissions should be addressed to The Tech, P.O. Box 397029, Cambridge, Mass. 02139-7029, or sent by interdepartmental mail to Room W20-483. All submissions are due by 4:30 p.m. two days before the date of publication.

Letters, columns, and cartoons must bear the authors' signatures, addresses, and phone numbers. Unsigned letters will not be accepted.

The Tech reserves the right to edit or condense letters; shorter letters will be given higher priority. Once submitted, all letters become property of *The Tech*, and will not be returned. *The Tech* makes no commitment to publish all the letters received.

Guest columns are opinion articles submitted by members of the MIT or local community and have the author's name in italics. Columns without italics are written by *Tech* staff.

To Reach Us

The Tech's telephone number is (617) 253-1541. E-mail is the easiest way to reach any member of our staff. If you are unsure whom to contact, send mail to general@the-tech.mit.edu, and it will be directed to the appropriate person. You can reach the editor in chief by e-mailing eic@the-tech.mit.edu. Please send press releases, requests for coverage, and information about errors that call for correction to news@the-tech.mit.edu. Letters to the editor should be sent to letters@the-tech.mit.edu. The *Tech* can be found on the World Wide Web at <http://www-tech.mit.edu>.

Four Years Later

Josh Levinger

Four years after entering the Second World War, the United States and her allies had responded to an existential threat by defeating the enemy on two fronts on opposite sides of the world. Four years after preemptively declaring war on Iraq, we are still mired in a conflict that has taken 3,211 American lives and those of at least 60,000 innocent Iraqi civilians. While the initial military defeat of the Iraqi army was relatively well-executed, there was a total lack of planning for the reconstruction of a functioning society. Senior Defense Department management expressed utter disdain for State Department plans to rebuild Iraq, and many of the problems faced today can be directly traced to the inept decision-making in the first days of the conflict. With this kind of track record, we must not allow President Bush to expand the war to Iran.

Today, American troops are fighting in the middle of a civil war, unable to prevent attacks on civilians, their very presence increasing the violence. We have lost in Iraq; there is no hope of the "surge" working. The influence of an extra 21,500 troops will do little to secure Baghdad's population of 4.5 million, particularly when sectarian elements are determined to kill each other. Estimates by retired General Jack Keane and Fred Kagan of the American Enterprise Institute put the troop strength required to fully pacify Baghdad at 30,000 troops for 18 months. While the recently installed General David Petraeus claims the surge is working, in the last weeks there has been a chlorine bomb attack in Fallujah that injured 350 and killed eight, a suicide bombing at a college that killed 45 students and staff, and at least 113 bodies found tortured and executed in the Baghdad area.

I do not list these statistics to shock, merely to demonstrate the magnitude of the violence and the challenge posed to our forces. Until recently I argued against withdrawal, feeling that we owe it to the Iraqi people, having unleashed this violence, to do our best to contain it. But the continued slaughter, compounded by the anger at the indefinite length of our presence, leads me to believe that the best course of action is to bring our troops home. The forces at work in the region: the ancient religious hatred, the militias armed with weapons we did not secure in the invasion, and the seemingly endless supply of young men and women willing to blow themselves up in a crowd, all conspire to make our overwhelming military might completely ineffectual. This is not to disparage the efforts of our troops, only the politicians who sent them in harm's way without sufficient armor, planning, or historical insight to make victory achievable.

In the midst of the current conflict, the Bush administration seems to be invested in provoking Iran into a war. It has publicly accused Iranian agents of supplying Shia militias with the expertise and material for roadside bombs, and has deployed the USS Stennis Carrier Battle Group to the Persian Gulf. Alongside the USS Eisenhower, there is now enough firepower in the area to maintain 24-hour aircraft operations, a capability unprecedented since the beginning of the Iraq war, and a clear warning signal to Iran. While the new Secretary of Defense Robert Gates claims that we "are not looking for an excuse to go to war with Iran", the White House maintains, as ever, that "all options are on the table" to prevent Iran from becoming a nuclear power. Neoconservative author Andrew Roberts recently cautioned President Bush that his legacy will depend on whether he prevents the nuclearization of the Middle East. According to press accounts, Bush frowned and nodded gravely.

Four years after we began this war, we have little progress and much chaos to show for our enormous cost in blood and treasure. We cannot let President Bush maneuver us into another war of choice based on exaggerated evidence. Given the level of competence displayed in the pre- and post-war planning, it is lunacy to expect that we can salvage our current situation by doubling down and going to war with Iran. Any decent poker player, of which there are many here at MIT, knows that this strategy leads straight to ruin. Playing no-limit with the lives of our soldiers and innocent civilians isn't just bad policy, it's immoral. And a President who believes he is accountable only to God should take that to heart.

Oldja/Kelch Will Protect MIT Traditions

Jessica H. Lowell

During my first year in the UA Senate, there were many people who had opinions, or sent me feedback, but Steve, a freshman on my hall, was the most interested in the actual work. He was talented when it came to understanding and analyzing, and suggesting courses of action for Institute and UA politics, so I often used him as a sounding board, and suggested that he should run for Senate himself.

The next year, by then a resident of Zeta Psi, Steve Kelch won a spot as a UA Senator from Fraternities, quickly becoming one of Senate's most respected voices — well-informed, high on content and desire to work for students, and low on fluff. He worked diligently and effectively as a member of SLOPE, the group that plans Orientation, to make sure that it would go well and that student stakeholders (such as those running REX and Fraternity Rush) would be treated fairly. When I ran for UAP in 2006, I chose him as my running mate.

Although we lost, the Senate respected him enough to elect him the next year's Speaker. In that position, Steve has discouraged senators from bringing pointless legislation, promoted discussion about relevant issues, brought an increased number of administrative guest speakers so that senators had a fair chance to find out what was going on in the administration and tell their constituents about it, and cracked down on people who weren't doing their jobs.

Prior to this year, many juniors did not know what kinds of events their class council was hosting. As Class of 2008 President this year, Martin Holmes has organized numerous sold-out events. From traveling council meetings to joint class events, Martin has surpassed all expectations to serve his class.

Given the way Martin has improved the 2008 Class Council, I am positive that he will be able to dramatically change and improve the UA with Ali Wyne as his Vice-President. It is true that the Holmes-Wyne platform is ambitious — but then again, everything about MIT is. Though we may not always be able to accomplish everything that we set out to do, it is far better to set the bar high, work hard, and complete as much as possible than it is to set the bar low and merely maintain the status quo. Martin set the bar high as class president and has yet to disappoint.

The Holmes-Wyne ticket is full of new ideas,

Meanwhile, Lauren Oldja was UA Treasurer. When Lauren spoke, people listened. Lauren was dedicated to her job, earning the respect of those with whom she worked in Finboard and the ASA (as is evident from James R. Peacock's endorsement in the last issue). When Finboard re-wrote its policies, she was crucial in setting its reach so that Finboard did not become Big Brother to student groups. She branched out beyond what was mandated by her job description and has been working with DormCon to allow for more Early Returns during REX, and for a policy that would allow dorm REX chairs who leave for the summer to come back earlier to help the dorm prepare — something concrete and useful for dorms from the UA. Her DormCon partner has endorsed her on a dorm discussion mailing list. She and Steve are great partners — tough, practical, and in touch with student life.

Everybody says that they want to preserve MIT traditions like REX and hacking. The real question is not whether they want to, it's whether they can. This ticket has actually accomplished something on behalf of REX, and are veterans of the process of planning Orientation and advocating for REX. And as the UA's point person on hacking issues for the last few years, I'd endorse this as the ticket most likely to be effective at preserving hacking.

The Tech criticized them for the modest reach of their goals, but their goals, such as a separate policy for smaller events that serve alcohol, with fewer hoops to jump through than

are in place for the meant-for-large-events current policy, are useful and achievable.

Lauren and Steve know how to work with the MIT administration, and how to acquire useful information. A committee will only find the information that administrators want students to hear, when they want students to hear it. It will not solve the problem of policy changes being sprung on students with too little warning or input. Useful information is found through grunt work, assertiveness, a thorough knowledge of trends and players in Institute government, contacts, and earning the respect of administrators and others with whom you work. It's found by vigilance and awareness, while not being too alarmist. Lauren and Steve understand this, and have used it to great effect.

Most students I know don't care if the UA comes up with new programs. Most primarily want the UA to protect the things they care about, and it's hard to put that in a platform, and even harder to demonstrate that you'll be good at it (especially given that most students, while they would like the UA to do it, don't trust the UA to be able to do so). For the latter, one has to rely on previous record. Of all the UAP/VP tickets, Lauren Oldja and Steve Kelch not only have some of the most practical and useful ideas for what to do, but will be best at protecting the things you care about. I fully endorse them for UAP/VP.

Jessica H. Lowell '07 is the UA Senator from East Campus.

Holmes-Wyne: A Proven Record

Susan J. Shin

many of which resulted from student meetings. The two candidates have met with dozens of campus leaders from East and West campus, FSILGs, and different student groups. Ideas such as instituting a Career Fair holiday, funding a SafeRide Bridge Shuttle, and establishing a Fraternity-Police Dinner Fund came directly from students, and are now highlighted as priorities in their platform. During the UA P/VP debate, they stated that they intended to put proximity card readers in dorms. Taken out of context, this proposal may seem minuscule or unnecessary, but it is just one example of Martin's and Ali's desire to advance student interests: they want to represent undergraduates to make both small and large changes to improve daily student life.

Furthermore, Martin and Ali bring to the table years of experience serving our student body on UA Senate, Class Council, and the UA Executive Committee. *The Tech* has unfairly dismissed them without researching their platform ideas or past experiences with due diligence. Last week's editorial, "Medio-

cre at Best," endorsed the Oldja-Kelch ticket based on a campaign that simply preserves the status quo, even though the editors would rather endorse a campaign of "ambitiously advancing new ideas." In addition, they target the two on their proposed Committee on Institute Communication, calling it a replica of the "existing" group known as the Student Committee on Administrative Transparency and Relations (SCATR): Interestingly, SCATR has not had a meeting this academic year, and its name is not even mentioned on the UA's website.

It is revealing that the worst criticism of Martin and Ali is that they are too ambitious. Do we want leaders who propose fresh ideas or leaders who content themselves with preserving the status quo? The inaccuracies in *The Tech*'s coverage should not dissuade students from voting for the ticket that has a proven record of accomplishment.

Susan J. Shin '07 is the president of the class of 2007.

Kelch and Oldja Are Best Choice

Agustya R. Mehta

Lauren Oldja and Steve Kelch have already proven themselves to be responsible through their duties to the UA and other student groups, and I have great respect for both of them. They both act with the same high level of integrity on a personal level that they display through their work in student organizations.

I've also worked with Steve through many of my roles in student leadership, including the UA Senate and in planning orientation for the class of 2010; he is not only adept at getting things done effectively, but he is also a friendly and charismatic person who is easy to talk to and fun to interact with.

In my experiences, student government is deeply entrenched in bureaucracy. I've had to deal with a load of B.S. in representing Simmons Hall as a UA senator and now as its president. I know firsthand how frustrating it can be to get things done when it's easier to just be disgusted by the politics. Steve and Lauren have both shown a pro-

found ability to work through the red tape without becoming drones of the system — this, I think, is both uncommon and admirable. As a ticket, these two candidates would be a powerful leadership for the undergraduate population. The fact that they have already started implementing many of their platform ideas is testimony to this.

Lauren and Steve also have a wide range of living experiences between them. Lauren has been a long-term West Campus resident and has seen the varied cultures of the west side dorms. She has also lived across the river, and understands the difficulties that FSILGs face on a daily basis. Steve maintains strong ties to the east side while also serving as the president of his fraternity in Cambridge. Their combined experiences on campus and in FSILGs guarantee that all undergrads will be represented by their ticket.

I know that Lauren and Steve will serve our student body well as UA President and Vice President. It goes without saying that they have my highest endorsement.

Agustya R. Mehta '08 is the president of Simmons Hall.

Manmohan, Funakoshi For UA P/VP

Malamo E. Countouris

Attention Class of 2009! Have you voted for UA President and Vice President yet? Fernando Funakoshi is running for UA Vice President along with Manisha Manmohan for President. The best aspect of their campaign is that he is a member of the class of 2009!

So, you may be wondering why you should vote for candidates who have had no previous UA experience. The reason is that you want your opinion to count. Manisha and Fernando are involved in so many different activities and know people from all sides of campus. They both are very outgoing, very easy to talk to, and always care what people have to say.

Once in the UA, Manisha and Fernando will have no trouble making contacts there. As very outgoing people, they will contact any necessary administrators to meet the needs of the undergraduate population.

Currently, Manisha and Fernando have plans to work closely with Panhel to actually make SafeRide safe, reliable, and have a larger capacity. They also plan to implement a new meal plan that would be more affordable and beneficial for all of campus.

In addition, Manisha and Fernando plan to re-evaluate how the UA is spending its money. In terms of student groups, they plan to give new groups as well as very active ones the money that they need. Also, FSILGs will be given more opportunities, such as more funding for things such as recycling.

Class of 2009, want your votes to count? Vote for Fernando and Manisha. Vote MF!



CAMPUS LIFE

Scott's Travels

The Forever Train

By James Scott Berdahl

I left off last time having just spent the night in the streets of Moscow, and upon awaking, found a dead body a few benches down from mine. It looked as though the man had drunk himself to death in the night. Nothing really came of this though; I couldn't do anything to help the situation and the park was coming alive with people collecting the recyclables strewn about everywhere — he'd be found again soon enough.

I had spent the night outside thanks to my flatmate Oscar, who had failed to meet me at the bar the night before, and who by happy coincidence possessed the only key to the apartment complex. Finally the morning matured enough that the complex opened, and I returned, with phone numbers of prostitutes and drug dealers alike on slips of paper in my pocket, to find Oscar, inside, sleeping peacefully. Needless to say I wanted a bit of an explanation, but my attempts to rouse him proved futile. Apparently he'd spent the night out partying and was now too wiped out to wake up, even for a second.

But such wasn't the case. Oscar continued

to sleep, all that day and part of the next, until after some thirty hours he finally awoke and told his story. He had been on his way to the Hungry Duck, the bar where we were to meet, when he was approached by a Russian going to the same place. They walked together and talked, and stopped off at a kiosk to get drinks for the walk, as might be expected. At some point though, Oscar noticed his motor skills failing. Suddenly there were three Russians walking with him, and he watched helplessly as one went through his wallet, the other two easily holding back his weak struggle. Then they left him, and his memory more or less cut out. He had been drugged. He spent the rest of the night labouring to haul himself back to the flat, often passing out in doorways or even in the sidewalk. It had been a rough night.

It was at about this point that I decided I should move on. While Moscow had many interesting and beautiful districts — most notably those districts possessing a pair of X chromosomes — I had had the misfortune of stumbling upon many of the darker aspects of the place. Besides, there was still a lot of ground to cover

on the way to Delhi.

I managed to get tickets for the Trans-Siberian Railway to Irkutsk in Siberia, and after some last minute must-sees like Lenin's eighty-one-year-old preserved corpse, I was off. Four days by train ... four days that quickly turned into an eternity after the first stop, when every mother on board bought her child a multitude of loud, flashy singing teddy bears. It didn't help that the door at the end of our carriage was very stiff, leading me to think that it was locked, leading me to spend three of the four days in the same spot.

Despite this, it was kind of peaceful knowing that I didn't need to be anywhere or do anything besides watch five time zones lazily drift by. The scenery was serene; rural Russia is punctuated by picturesque little villages of old wooden houses with well-tended gardens, blue trimmed windows and narrow, unpaved paths separating the houses. The sun rose and set each day, as the sun is wont to do, producing some spectacular skies along the way. With the last sunrise came the blow of the train's whistle. Irkutsk at last.

Now, I won't say too much about the rest of

my travels in Russia. This pains me, as Olkhon Island in Lake Baikal was amongst my favorite places on the entire trip, but I didn't have any really monumental adventures there, save for an ill-fated attempt to set out cross-country with just some bread and a large block of cheese, and save for getting slapped in the face with a herring after losing a high stakes game of poker. As such, I feel I should skip ahead to more interesting times.

Mongolia. After nearly a month in Russia, it was a drastic change. The landscape of rolling steppe was spotted here and there with little white gers, the tents in which the country's nomadic population make their homes. In Ulaanbaatar, the capital city, chaos reigned. Children hung out the windows of public buses, shouting their destinations, while old men sat on the sidewalks with bathroom weigh scales, encouraging passersby to weigh themselves for a small fee. Amongst the madness, I ran into a like-minded traveler, and we decided to buy horses and try our luck crossing the country as the Hordes did centuries ago, and as many of the inhabitants still do. This would prove interesting.

Gadget Review

Malleable Devices Inc.'s kwikSynCh Gets the Job Done

By Kailas Narendran

STAFF COLUMNIST

Pros

Low cost, compact, portable solution

Cons

Occasional operational glitches

The lowdown

The kwikSynCh cable and charging tips (mTips) comprise a compact, easy to use, flexible, portable, and low cost charging solution for all those who deal with the care and feeding of numerous battery-powered equipment in a mobile life. It's comprised of the kwikSynCh cable, which plugs into your computer's USB port, and provides two ports to plug in custom charging tips to accommodate all your mobile devices. I found the system to be excellent for traveling, saving you the hassle of carrying a backpack full of AC adapters in addition to your laptop.

Our problem

My favorite irony in our so called "wireless" lives is the fact that we're mired in wires. Sure, everything has a battery now and communicates over a tiny fraction of the available airspace, linking friends, families, and complete strangers. Even from the middle of nowhere Madagascar, I was only a few DTMF tones away from contacting a friend on the street back home in the US. Even with our unlimited connectivity, the wires that feed our hunger and desire for

communication and computation are stifling.

Before using the kwikSynCh, I counted at least four unique chargers (and cables) that were stuffed into my backpack at most times. The resulting rat's nest effectively made them all useless, and wasted a lot of space. (I'm going to stop motivating the problem now, as I'm probably preaching to the choir.)

My solution

The kwikSynCh is a short USB cable that allows you to use the power from your computer (laptop or desktop) to charge your mobile devices. I love the idea because it's so simple and brilliant (and came from an MIT startup). On top of the value it provides to the mobile electronics user, it's priced at a level that blows competing solutions (individual chargers for each device) out of the water.

My backpack, which was once a tangle of wires that would even make Medusa's skin crawl, is now a place of packing, storing, carrying, and other things that a backpack should be. All of my portable devices are charged by a compact, robust unit that could easily and comfortably fit in my pocket. I carry a kwikSynCh with two custom charge tips, one for my phone and one for my Bluetooth headset. When I need to charge them, I simply plug the device into the custom tip, and the other end of the kwikSynCh into my USB port and voila!

Looking the SynCh cable in the mouth

As much as I love the concept and the

usability of the idea, it's unfortunately not without faults. Although the device does have two ports, I found that my laptop's USB port was unable to source enough current to charge more than just my cell phone. If your devices exceed the power rating of your USB port, the port detects the surge and shuts itself down.

I initially found this to be quite an annoyance, but over time came to accept it as coming with the territory. Given the choice between the hassle of dealing with a mess in my bag continuously, or rarely having to think about charging my devices serially (actually, I don't think they've ever been dead at the same time), the choice was a no-brainer.

The bottom line

Despite the annoyance of an occasional USB surge as you learn the limits of your computer's ports, this product is worth more than the \$15 tag it wears on the MDI Web site. You can buy custom tips from MDI directly for \$7 each, at <http://www.syncharger.com/kwiksynch.htm>.



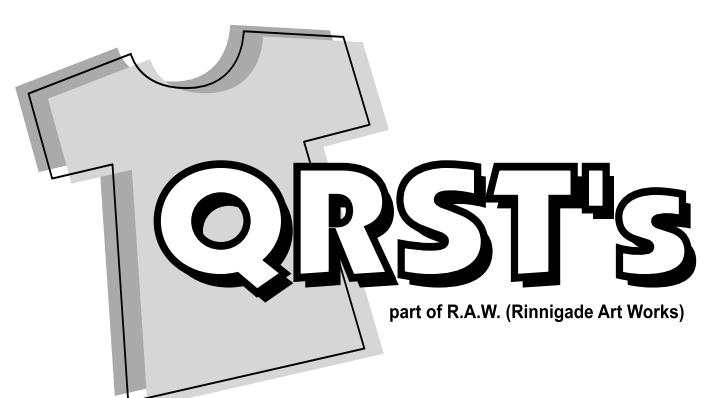
The kwikSynCh cable and charging tips.

T-SHIRTS

...a necessary fact of College!



- Deal direct...no middlemen
- Fast turnaround
- Award winning & computer literate art dept.
- Free delivery & reasonable pricing *Cambridge & Boston Area
- Full color t-shirts and coffee mugs - no minimum!
- Locally owned & operated in Somerville, MA.
- ...and best of all - no boring lectures



ph - 617-625-3335
email - info@qrsts.com
www.qrsts.com
serving the M.I.T. Community since 1989

March 20,
2007

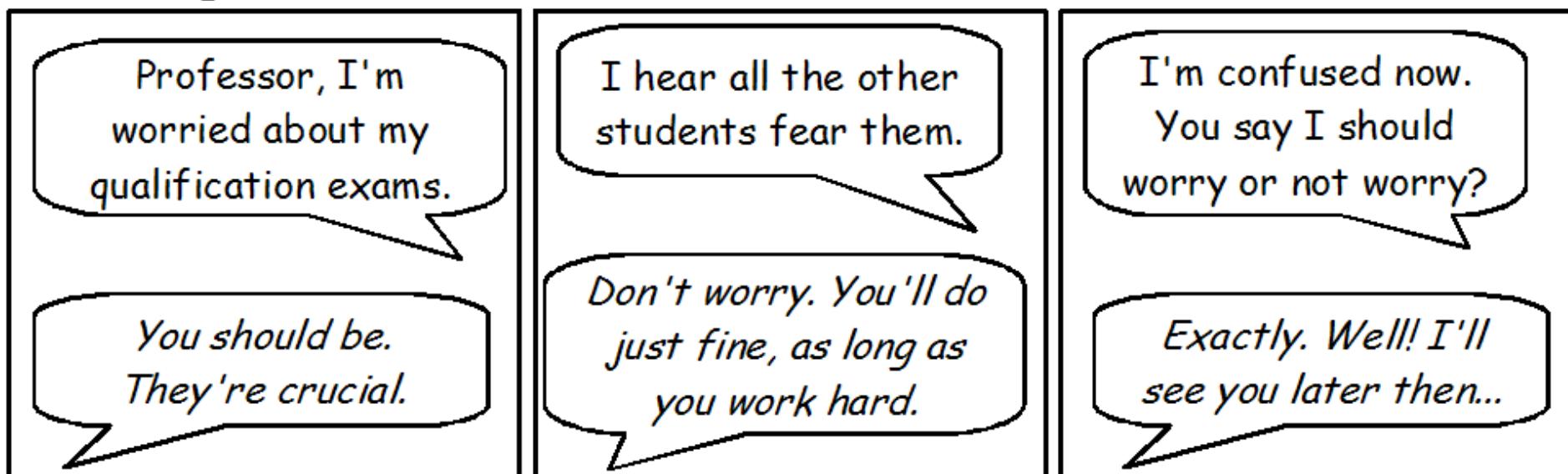
COMICS FUN PAGES

Page
7

The
Tech

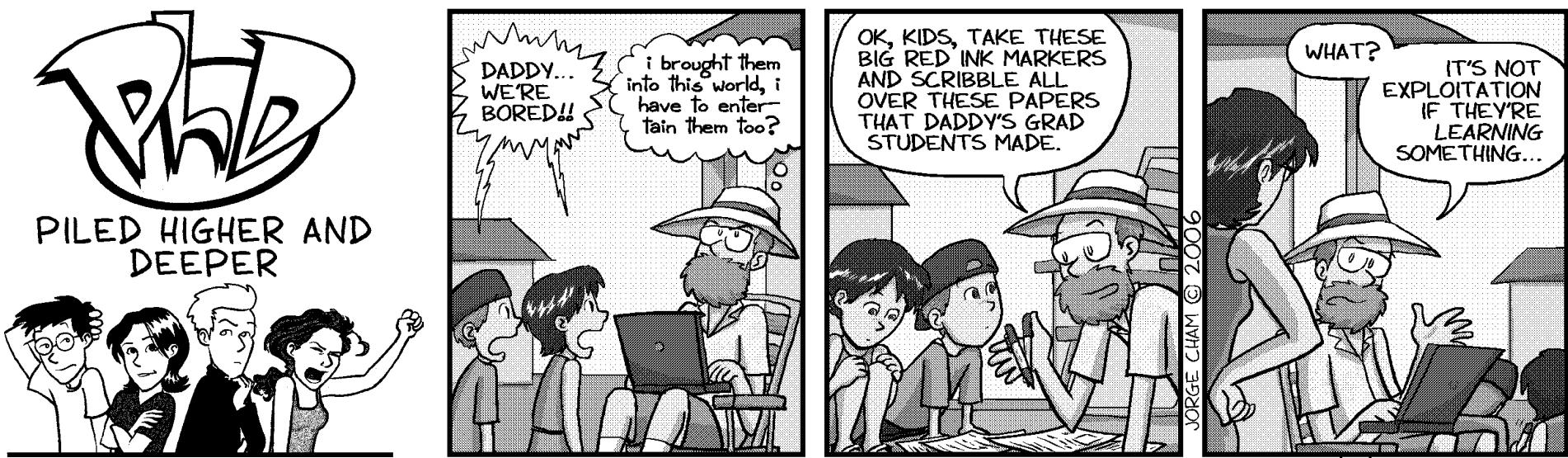
Run Bug

by Roberto Perez-Franco

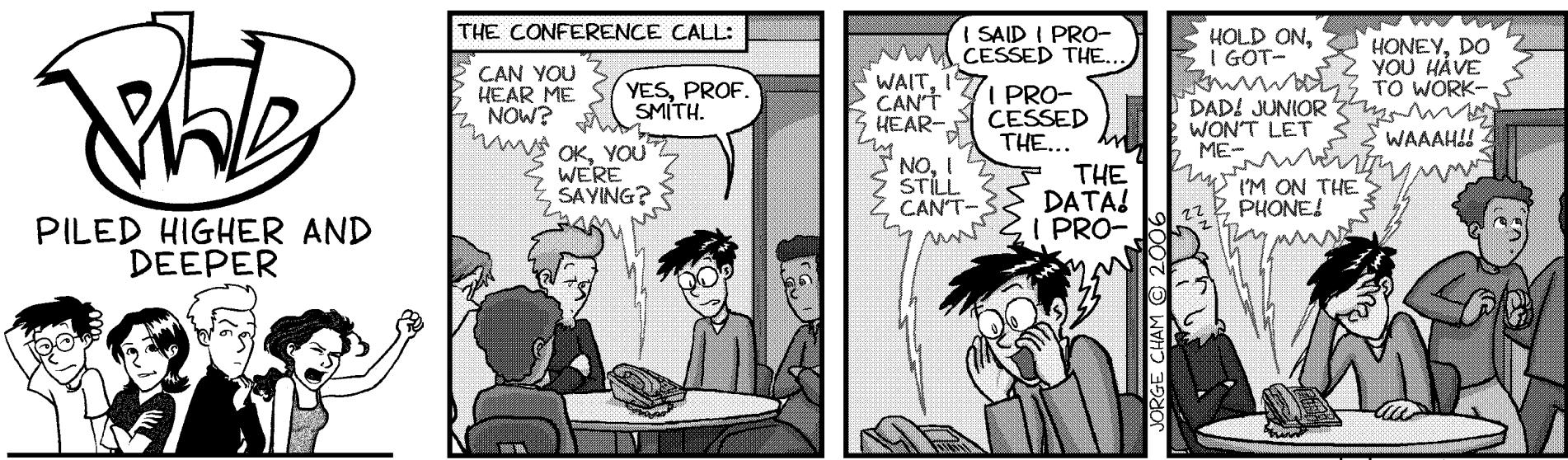


2006-Dec-24

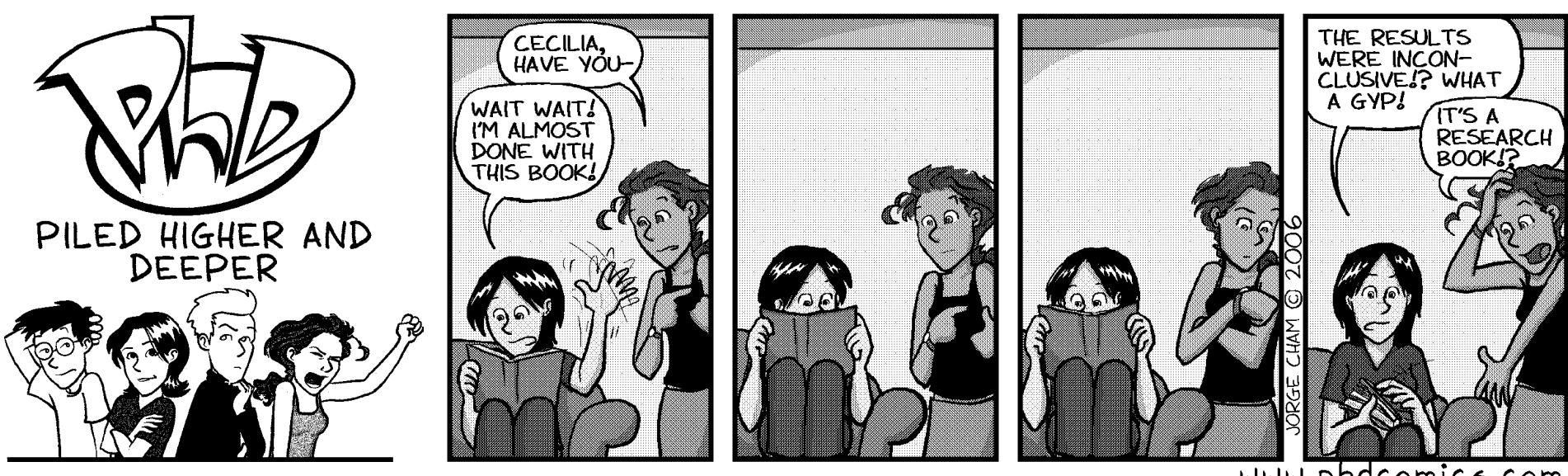
www.runbug.com



www.phdcomics.com



www.phdcomics.com



www.phdcomics.com

Doonesbury

BY GARRY TRUDEAU

Dilbert® by Scott Adams

Crossword Puzzle

solution, page 15

MOTORCYCLE TRAINING IN BOSTON

**Free use of motorcycle included in beginner course.
Pass the course, Get your license.
Under Age 21: \$225. Over 21: \$265
www.StreetwiseCycleSchool.com (781) 974-2474**



ATTENTION NSCS MEMBERS!

We are looking for excited and capable students to take on leadership roles in NSCS! This is a great experience to work with MIT administrators to try to make a difference at MIT.

Deadline: Monday, 4/2

Download the application from our website
<http://web.mit.edu/nscs/www/events.html> and
submit your application to nscs-exec@mit.edu

su | do | ku

© Puzzles by Pappocom

Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column, row, and 3 by 3 grid contains exactly one of each of the digits 1 through 9.

Solution, tips, and computer program at <http://www.sudoku.com>; see also solutions, page 15.

A 10x10 grid of light gray lines on a white background. Two horizontal lines are drawn in black: one at approximately y=333 and another at approximately y=666. These black lines intersect all the vertical grid lines, creating a total of 11 vertical segments on each side of the grid.



St. Patrick's Day Parade

Thousands filled the streets on Sunday, March 18 to see South Boston's St. Patrick's Day Parade.

Left: The Tampa, Fla.-based Berkeley Prep Drum and Pipe Corps

Below: The 501st "Vader's Fist" Legion of Imperial Storm Troopers

Photography by Kristina M. Holton



got sperm?

SPERM DONORS Up to \$900 a month!

Healthy MEN, in college or with a college degree, wanted for our anonymous sperm donor program at our Cambridge facility.

Help people fulfill their dreams of starting a family.

APPLY ONLINE: www.CRYOBANKDONORS.com

Receive free health and genetic screenings.

Spring 2007 Wulff Lecture

Tuesday, March 20, 2007
4:00–5:00pm
Room 10-250
Reception to follow

Electrochemical Pathways Towards Sustainability

Prof. Donald R. Sadoway

John F. Elliott Professor of Materials Chemistry
Department of Materials Science and
Engineering



Donald R. Sadoway obtained the B.A.Sc. in Engineering Science, the M.A.Sc. in Chemical Metallurgy, and the Ph.D. in Chemical Metallurgy, all from the University of Toronto. After a year of postdoctoral study at MIT as a NATO Fellow, Dr. Sadoway joined the MIT faculty in 1978. He has authored more than 125 scientific papers and holds 14 U.S. patents. His basic research centers on electrochemical processes in molten salts, liquefied gases, and polymers. With a markedly environmental focus, his applied research is directed towards the development of high-performance, solid-state, rechargeable lithium batteries as well as environmentally sound technologies for the extraction, refining, and recycling of metals. From 1995 to 2005 he held a MacVicar Faculty Fellowship, MIT's highest award for excellence in undergraduate education. In 1999 he became the John F. Elliott Professor of Materials Chemistry. In 2001 he was elected Member of the Norwegian Academy of Technological Sciences.

Contra, Israeli, and International Folk Dancing for PE credit

Live folk music at contra dances!

Attend 6 dances, 8:00 – 9:30 pm:

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|
| Tuesday April 3 | Contra Dance in the Sala |
| Wednesday April 11 | Israeli Dance in W20-407 |
| Sunday April 29 | Int'l Folk Dance in W20-407 |
| Tuesday May 1 | Contra Dance in W20-491 |
| Sunday May 6 | Int'l Folk Dance in W20-407 |
| Tuesday May 15 | Contra Dance in W20-491 |

No partner or experience necessary.
All are welcome, whether taking the class or not.

FREE for MIT students.
Register in the PE lottery, or at the dance.

MIT Folk Dance Club <http://mit.edu/fdc>

C O U R S E I I I D M S E

IMAGINING MIT
Designing a Campus for the Twenty-First Century
by William J. Mitchell

The story of the decade long, billion-dollar building boom at MIT and how it produced major works of architecture by Charles Correa, Frank Gehry, Steven Holl, Fumihiko Maki, and Kevin Roche.

11 x 7 1/2, 200 pp., 220 illus., color throughout
paper, 978-0-262-13479-8, \$24.95

available now at
the mit press bookstore
art * architecture * design * science
292 main street, kendall square, cambridge (617) 253-5249

20% OFF
LIMITED TIME OFFER!

News Briefs, cont.

Briefs, from Page 1

The board then appended "violated election rules" to Dilwali's name on ballots. Dilwali argued that he was running as a write-in candidate when he formed the Facebook group and was under the impression that he could not run as an official candidate.

The JudBoard members wrote in their decision that the "violated election rules" statement was "excessive ... given that Prashant's violations appear relatively minor." The JudBoard did not, however, overrule the Election Commission, stating that "it is not within our jurisdiction to overturn [the Rules Board] decision." The JudBoard did request that candidate platforms submitted after the deadline be added to the voting Web site. Those platforms were added on Sunday night, said Michelle Jeong '08, chair of the Election Commission.

—Nick Semenkovich

MIT Bested in Blood Battle

MIT donated less blood than last year's February drive, losing to the California Institute of Technology in the MIT vs. Caltech Blood Battle. During the drive, which ran February 12–15, only 3 percent of MIT's 10,050 students donated, while 7 percent of Caltech's 2,086 students donated blood, according to the Web site of American Red Cross Team And Network of MIT (ARCTAN). In total, MIT collected 296 pints of blood from this blood drive — less than the 305 pints collected during the February 2006 blood drive. Each person donated about one pint when giving blood, but some donors were deemed ineligible to donate and did not count toward the final total of pints donated.

According to Jonathon Weiss '93, a coordinator of the drive, the lower turnout this year could have been affected by poor weather later in the week, Red Cross volunteers calling in sick at the beginning of the week, and a different incentive last year. The blood drive in February 2006 involved competition between dormitories and included prizes.

—Nick Bushak

Hi, I'm looking for housing
(1 room, ASAP). Please
contact me ASAP. 617-780-
2719 or at gmotilla@mit.edu.
Thank You.



Not ULYSSES Grant



Not Hugh Grant



IT'S *Council for the Arts*

grant!

Application deadline: April 6, 2007

Contact: Susan Cohen at cohen@media.mit.edu

Application: <http://web.mit.edu/arts/do/funding/grantguide.html>

Scheib's Video 'Twisted' With Savvy Sense of Humor

By Geoff Edgers
THE BOSTON GLOBE

Even as a student, Jay R. Scheib, associate professor of music and theater arts, wasn't afraid to take chances.

In the early '90s, while an undergraduate at the University of Minnesota, he made his directing debut with a piece that called for his cast to enter a stage littered with trash and a huge mound of earth, stop, and remain quiet and still for 72 minutes. "The Device Machine," presented at a theater festival in Hungary, garnered no applause.

"The place was roaring with laughter for the first 12 minutes,"

"The place was roaring with laughter for the first 12 minutes ... Then there was heckling."

— Jay R. Scheib

Scheib recounts one recent morning in the Stata Center cafe at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. "Then there was heckling."

In comparison, Scheib's latest piece, "This Place Is a Desert," which runs at Boston's Institute of Contemporary Art Thursday, March 22 through Sunday, March 25 could be considered a crowd pleaser. Inspired by the films of Michelangelo Antonioni ("Blowup," "L'Avventura"), it presents a tale of relationships gone bad, framed by Scheib's twisted, pop-culture savvy sense of humor. Six hand-held video cameras track the actors from different angles through a set shaped like a house, projecting their images on four panels above. There's also break-dancing, dodge ball, nuclear disaster, and a romantic scene done partially in Italian.

For Scheib, who believes in using cinematic tools to make theater more powerful, "This Place Is a Desert" is nothing revolutionary. It's just the latest of his hybrid creations. For the ICA, the production is something else: a tough sell.

"This is probably the riskiest thing I'm doing this spring," says David Henry, the ICA's director of programs. That's because it's so hard to categorize. "It's not a dance, but it's as physical as a lot of dance I've seen. It's not a film or video, but you spend a lot of time watching a screen. It's not theater, but there's a set and actors down there."

The script was developed largely out of a series of rehearsals and workshops that culminated two years ago in a short version performed at the Prelude Festival in New York.

The main characters — four couples in various states of dysfunction — "are essentially demolishing each other," says Scheib. "In dealing with their loneliness, some of them embrace the impulse to make things worse."

Though Scheib's work is emotionally charged, the curly-haired director, 37, is soft-spoken in person. He's tall, about 6 foot 4, and 190 pounds, only a bit heavier than he was in high school, where he was a standout high jumper.

There's nothing new about using video in theater. But Leah Gelpe, the New York artist who handles the video in this production, describes Scheib's approach to the medium as unique.

Gelpe, who recently worked on the American Repertory Theatre's production of "Britannicus," says that Scheib doesn't merely use video as a complement to his plays, he makes it a central focus of the work. The cameras are brought in as early as the first rehearsal. "This is the only way to develop the media hand in hand with the performance," says Gelpe.

Scheib says his use of video is an important link to his research at MIT, which focuses on integrating media with live performance. People throughout the world are familiar with movie techniques, he notes.

"They're used to jump cuts, and seeing a story told through cinematic techniques," says Scheib. "Whereas a lot of people are just bored at the theater."

The VCR revolution

Scheib's attachment to film began in Iowa. His father ran a farm. His mother worked as a warden at the state prison. The family TV got only three channels, and the town's lone movie house showed second-run mainstream films. Then videocassettes arrived, and the teenage Scheib found himself mesmerized by Pasolini and Godard, John Hughes and Clint Eastwood.

Driving a tractor all day long developed his visual sensibility, Scheib says, his sense of scale and the landscape. He also noticed changes as the farm economy of the 1980s began to collapse. Barns went unpainted. Families moved away. That sense of desolation stuck with him and runs through his work.

At the University of Minnesota, where he would earn his undergraduate degree in theater arts, a professor exposed Scheib to the work of the Polish theater director Tadeusz Kantor. Scheib began to stage productions, first in the basement of a school gymnasium, then in the abandoned rehearsal space of the Minnesota Opera, and later on the stages of international festivals.

In 1997, Scheib entered Columbia University's graduate program

in theater directing, where he would study under Robert Woodruff and Anne Bogart.

"When he applied, I looked at his material and said, 'This guy's already a rock star,'" remembers Bogart. "He's clearly got a major career. His three years at Columbia, he basically used Columbia to do his projects."

In New York, Scheib also met Gelpe and developed a rapport with some of the actors who will come to the ICA for "This Place Is a Desert." April Sweeney, who is in the show, says that working with Scheib is liberating. He creates a script but leaves in opportunities — the dodge ball game in "Desert," for example — to allow a moment to shift and turn differently each night. Most importantly, she says, he doesn't abide by the rigid rules that she feels govern much of regional theater.

"You go to work in regional theater, and you only have a certain amount of time to make a play, actors aren't supposed to talk that much, and there's sort of this acceptable way of rehearsing and working," says Sweeney. "It's about doing a job as

opposed to doing a piece of theater."

Confronting reality

"Desert" opens with a cameraman who has two names (Haskell Wexler, after the real-life cinematographer, and Glen Chick, after the real-life operator of the Three Mile Island control room) shooting away. Cut to a woman crying, a man working out, and another woman reading a Raymond Carver book with her cancer-stricken friend, named William Faulkner, in the room. Another character, called Richard Harris, is the son of the man who designed the reactor at Chernobyl.

What does it all mean?

Scheib describes the play as an examination of human loves and emotions in the face of industrial developments. He draws on Antonioni, he says, because the director explored those themes. But the play also incorporates testimonies from the Chernobyl and Three Mile Island disasters.

"I think anyone who expects a staging of one of Antonioni's films will be disappointed," says Scheib. "Maybe outraged."

As for the colorful names, some

are purely comic asides, while others have deeper meanings. Harris, the late actor, performed in Antonioni's 1964 film "The Red Desert." Faulkner created an entirely fake universe — Yoknapatawpha County — to heighten the reality of his novels, a concept that intrigues Scheib.

As in all his productions, the idea is to get as close as possible to his characters, whoever they are. He doesn't want them to speak with put-on accents or to hide anything, physically or emotionally. And video technology helps make that kind of intimacy possible.

"I'm working from the same position as a typical director," says Scheib. "It's just that I'm using some of the tools in our hands. I can be close to the action, I can see around corners, and I can present a stage design that turns the rules of stage design on its head.

"We're trying to get as close to reality as possible," he says. "In a way, my interest in theater is the same as it was in the 1880s. ... Using fiction to confront reality and using reality to confront fiction. That's my slogan, if I had one right now."

THANK YOU M.I.T.



Bose® Wave® music system



QuietComfort® 2 Acoustic Noise Cancelling Headphones



Companion® 3 multimedia speaker system

Thank you to Students, Faculty, Staff and Employees of M.I.T.

Bose Corporation was founded and built by M.I.T. people. Our success in research and in business is a result, in no small part, of what M.I.T. has done for us. As one measure of our appreciation, we are extending special purchase privileges to all students and employees of M.I.T. for their personal use.

Lufthansa "Pro Team"
Elite Graduate Trainee Program
Graduate students from all fields welcome!

- Information session -
(Pizza and beverages will be served)

Interviews

for end of April with
Christoph Fay, Head of HR Marketing and Talent Sourcing can be
arranged at the meeting

Thursday, March 22nd 2007

Room 1-190
5 pm

Please RSVP with jbraune@mit.edu
Bring along your resume!

Please direct all inquiries to the
"M.I.T. Purchase Program."

Bose Corporation
1-800-444-BOSE

BOSE
Better sound through research®

Coop Student Board Election Update

The following student Coop members are candidates for the Coop Board of Directors for the 2007-08 academic year.

M.I.T. UNDERGRADUATE
AND GRADUATE STUDENTS:

Alexander St. Claire 2008
Rebecca Oman 2008
Karlen Ruleman 2008
Kevin Castelo MIT Sloan 2008

HARVARD UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS:

HARVARD GRADUATE STUDENTS:

Lulu Wang GSAS 2011 Jodi Beggs HBS 2008
Dan Bachner HLS 2008 Manas Kausik HSPH 2008



HTTP://www.thecoop.com

VOTE NOW!
www.thecoop.com

A librarian
could be
your best
friend, too

Some say dogs are man's best friend, but can Fido fetch that crucial piece of information for your paper from thousands of Google hits?

MIT's librarians are subject experts who can help you find the most reliable sources—period. You could spend hours surfing the internet, or just go to the Libraries and get the straight scoop. Library experts are just a phone call or email away—call x4-2ASK or go to libraries.mit.edu/ask-us/

libraries.mit.edu

Aero/Astro 33-111
Barker Engineering 10-500
Dewey E52.100

Hayden 14S
Humanities 14S-200
Lewis Music 14E-100

Lindgren 54-200
Rotch 7-238
Science 148, 100

MIT libraries

Vote Denials ‘Fairly Evenly’ Spread

UA, from Page 1

Presbrey did not know if there were widespread voting problems and was under the impression that vote denials were "fairly evenly distributed." Presbrey said he updated the site on Sunday to allow users to vote by comparing unrecognized MIT certificates to the MIT directory. Students who have removed their information from the directory will still need to contact the committee to vote. He also said that students who opted for sophomore standing might be affiliated with the incorrect class year. Affected users can e-mail the Election Commission at *ua-elect@mit.edu* if they wish to correct their class year or have other voting problems.

These solutions are not acceptable for everyone. Chandawarkar said that making students "go an extra mile to vote is a little ridiculous ... considering voter turnout is very low itself."

Further compounding these problems, the voting server was unavailable for a few hours Monday, March 19 due to a power failure in the UA office.

Online voting ends tonight and paper voting begins tomorrow, Wednesday, March 21 in Lobby 10.

18 Mathematicians, Advanced Computers Depict the Universe

Results of Computation Revealed at MIT

By Kenneth Chang

THE NEW YORK TIMES

It is one of the most symmetrical mathematical structures in the universe.

It may underlie the Theory of Everything that physicists seek to describe the universe.

Eighteen mathematicians spent four years and 77 hours of supercomputer computation to describe this structure, with the results unveiled Monday during a talk at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

But it still is not easy to describe the description, at least not in words.

"It's pretty abstract," conceded Jeffrey D. Adams, a professor of mathematics at the University of Maryland who led the project.

For mathematicians and physicists, symmetry can provide crucial insights into a problem. A 19th-century Norwegian mathematician, Sophus Lie (rhymes with tree), wrote down what are now known as Lie groups, sets of continuous transformations — meaning the changes could be a little or a lot — that leave an object unchanged in appearance.

For example, rotate a sphere any distance around any axis, and the sphere looks exactly the same.

Later mathematicians found five exceptions to the four classes of Lie groups that Lie knew about. The most complicated of the "exceptional simple Lie groups" is E8. It describes the symmetries of a 57-dimensional object that can in essence be rotated in 248 ways without changing its appearance.

Why are there five exceptional Lie groups? "It's just one of the beautiful magical things that happen in mathematics," Adams said.

"You can't really picture it," Brian Conrey, executive director of the American Institute of Mathematics, said of E8. The institute sponsored

the project with financing from the National Science Foundation.

"It's some sort of curvy, torus type of thing," Conrey said. "Now you start to move it around in different ways. It's an amazingly symmetric group."

To understand using E8 in all its possibilities requires calculation of 200 billion numbers. That is what Adams' team did, a rare collaboration for mathematicians who usually work alone or in small groups and rarely turn to supercomputers.

Robert L. Bryant, a mathematician at Duke who was not involved in the project, gave a biological analogy. Scientists can learn a lot about an animal from its DNA, but to understand it fully "you have to grow the organism and then study it," Bryant said. "In a certain sense, that is what the E8 team did. They used massive computation to fully develop the group E8 and its representations so that they could list its important features."

One eventual use could be understanding the universe, another example of physics taking advantage of abstract math. Isaac Newton invented calculus to study the motion of objects. Fourier analysis, the mathematics of periodic patterns, proved essential in studying phenomena like light waves, and physicists have employed Lie groups in quantum mechanics and relativity.

"All of the physics of the 20th century is tied up with this language," Conrey said.

E8 is the Lie group underlying some superstring theories that physicists are pursuing in an effort to tie gravity and the other fundamental forces of the universe into one theory.

"It could well be E8 that determines the deep inner structure of the universe," Adams said.

Some Turn Down Soph. Standing

Eligible Students Released From Credit Limit, Allowed to Declare Majors

Sophomore, from Page 1

Sophomore standing is a program that allows freshmen, who have completed at least one quarter of their degree requirements by the end of the fall term, the option of becoming sophomores at the beginning of the

spring term, according to the Class of 2010 Web site. These students may declare a major and begin working with their advisors, have no credit limit, are graded with the full A-F range, and may designate one of their subjects as exploratory.

In late November, the Registrar's

office determines the potentially eligible freshmen, assuming successful completion of the first term. In early December, Norman offered the option of sophomore standing to eligible students in writing. The deadline for accepting sophomore standing this year was March 9.

POM PRESENTS A SPECIAL ADVANCE SCREENING

LITTLE RIBBONETTE **JON HEDER**

KICK SOME GLORY

IN THEATRES MARCH 30 - WWW.BLADESOFGLORYMOVIE.COM
ARRIVE EARLY! SEATING IS FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED!

DATE:
THURSDAY, MARCH 22, 2007

TIME:
8:00 PM

LOCATION:
LECTURE ROOM 26-100

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT:
LOBBY 16

Brought to you by
MIT Lecture Series Committee

MA008

★ THE MASSACRE IN MASSACHUSETTS ★

MAGIC The Gathering **GRAND PRIX**

**THIS IS YOUR CHANCE TO SHOW WHAT YOU'VE GOT.
YOU BRING YOUR GAME. WE'LL BRING THE CARDS.**

For more GranPrix info, go to wizards.com/grandprix

Everyone who plays in the GP gets an exclusive foil Spiritmonger card*.

GRAND PRIX MASSACHUSETTS TOURNAMENT FORMAT AND SCHEDULE

Cost:	\$30 per player
Format:	2HG Limited
Location:	Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel and Trade Center
Friday, March 30:	Registration starts at 7:00 PM
Saturday, March 31:	Registration ends at 10:00 AM Tournament starts at 10:00 AM
Sunday, April 1:	The top 64 teams begin play at 9:00 AM

GRAND PRIX MASSACHUSETTS PRIZE SCHEDULE

Finish	Prize	Finish	Prize
1	\$1,500	2	\$1,000
3	\$1,400	4	\$1,000
5-8	\$900	9-10	\$500
11-20	\$400	21-32	\$300
33-40	\$200	41-50	\$200
51-64	\$100	Total	\$25,000

AMATEUR DIVISION PRIZE SCHEDULE

Finish	Prize	Finish	Prize
1	\$1,500	2	\$1,000
3	\$750	4	\$400
5	\$350	6	\$200
7	\$200	8	\$100
9	\$150	10	\$100
Total	\$5,000		

PRO TOUR® QUALIFIER

Pro Tour® Qualifier Sunday, April 1
Play for an invitation & airfare to Pro Tour San Diego

MARCH 30-APRIL 1, 2007 **BEST WESTERN ROYAL PLAZA HOTEL**
150 ROYAL PLAZA DRIVE, FITCHBURG, MA 01420

Side Events all day Saturday & Sunday!

*While supplies last.



What's Going On?

MIT can be a bewildering place if you don't know what's going on.

Don't be a confused panda! Instead, be a smart panda. A happy panda.

Tech reporters hunt down the news; photographers get exclusive shots; and production staff see the entire issue—even the parts that don't make it to press—long before we print.

Want in? Join *The Tech*!



join@the-tech.mit.edu

Let's nominate!

Deadline extended to March 23

web.mit.edu/awards



Awards Convocation 2007

**The MIT Arab Students' Organization Presents:
Movie screening and Discussion with Director:**

JUST YOUR AVERAGE ARAB

**Tuesday March 20, 2007
7:00pm 4-231
Free Admission!**

"This film is laugh-out-loud funny but the message is dead serious"

-- Denise Taylor, *The Boston Globe*

"...the most interesting, varied multicultural ensemble I've seen in a Boston-area film."

-- Gerald Peary, *The Boston Phoenix*



Film Synopsis: "Just Your Average Arab" is a comedy in which Arab-American characters meet in the storage room of a convenience store where they take an "Arab American Survival Guide post 9/11" class. The characters learn how to change their names, appearance, and accents to look more "American" and to avoid scrutiny from a terrorist-fearing American public. What follows is a hilarious ride that combines political anxiety, comedy, satire, and a script that will cause you to laugh and think.

Questions? arab-comm@mit.edu
<http://web.mit.edu/arab/www>
<http://www.filmondigital.com/jyaa>

McKinsey SUMMER LEADERSHIP SUMMIT 2007
LAUNCHING YOUNG LEADERS

WHAT IS LEADERSHIP?

HOW DO GREAT LEADERS SUCCEED?

WHAT MAKES A GOOD LEADER?

Spend a weekend this Summer exploring these questions and more. The McKinsey Summer Leadership Summit is an interactive and skill-building forum for student leaders* at several top universities. It will include discussions with current leaders in the public and private sectors, team building activities, and individual sessions on maximizing personal leadership styles.

Application Deadline

**Thursday, March 22, 2007
Midnight**

More information and online application available at:
www.mckinsey.com/leadershipsummit

* Current Juniors and 1-year Masters candidates graduating December 2007 – June 2008

McKinsey&Company



PETER RIGANO



ERIC D. SCHMIDLI—THE TECH

'Bringing Down' Movie Filmed in Front of Killian

Shooting for the film adaptation of *Bringing Down the House* took place yesterday on Memorial Drive in front of Killian Court.

Above: (left to right) Dolly Grip Tony Campenni, Camera Operator David E. Diano, and First Assistant Camera Erik L. Brown shoot footage of the MIT campus.

Left: Filming lasted several hours on Monday, with the cast and crew confined to the Memorial Drive sidewalk because MIT would not give permission to film on campus.

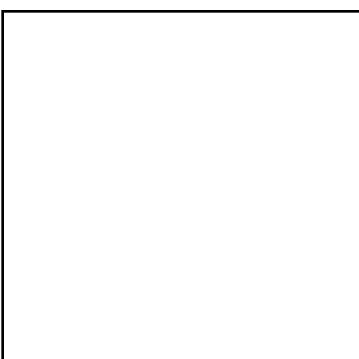
Daily Meditation

"Knowledge is as wings to man's life, and a ladder for his ascent." —Bahá'u'lláh

MIT Bahá'í Association

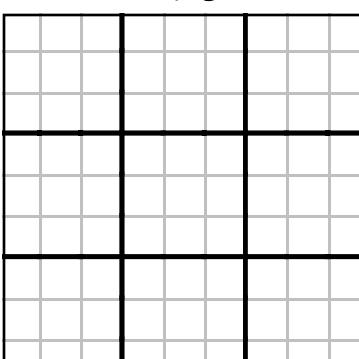
Solution to Crossword

from page 8



Solution to Sudoku

from page 8



Call for Nominations 2007 Student Art Awards

LAYA and JEROME B. WIESNER STUDENT ART AWARDS

The Laya and Jerome B. Wiesner Student Art Awards are presented annually to up to three students (undergraduate or graduate), living groups, organizations or activities for outstanding achievement in and contributions to the arts at MIT. Established in 1979, these awards honor President Emeritus Wiesner and Mrs. Wiesner for their commitment to the arts at MIT. An endowment fund provides a \$1,250 honorarium to each recipient.

<http://web.mit.edu/arts/about/awards/wiesner.html>

LOUIS SUDLER PRIZE IN THE ARTS

The Louis Sudler Prize in the Arts is presented annually to a graduating senior who has demonstrated excellence or the highest standards of proficiency in music, theater, painting, sculpture, design, architecture or film. The Prize was established in 1982 by Mr. Sudler, a performer in the arts and an arts patron from Chicago. An endowment fund provides a \$1,250 award to the honoree.

<http://web.mit.edu/arts/about/awards/sudler.html>

Please send nominating letters (by email or campus mail) by **Friday March 23, 2007** to:
Susan Cohen, Director, Council for the Arts at MIT- E15-205
cohen@media.mit.edu

SPORTS

MIT Swimming Grabs Eleventh In NCAAs With 4 All-Americans

By Jeff Lemieux
DAPER STAFF

MIT's men's swimming and diving contingent received All-America performances from Craig M. Edwards '07 and Rastislav Racz '10 on the final day of competition at the NCAA Championships on Saturday, as the Engineers powered to an 11th-place national finish.

Edwards grabbed a fourth-place finish in the 200-yard backstroke, while Racz placed sixth in the 200-yard breaststroke. Kenyon College won an unprecedented 28th consecutive national title, easily outpacing the other 54 scoring schools by amassing an incredible 570 points. Runner-up Denison University totalled 351 points, while Emory University rounded out the top three with 318.

The Cardinal and Gray captured 108 points over the three-day competition only to be edged out of the top 10 by the University of California at Santa Cruz in the final event. UC-

Santa Cruz needed to win its consolation heat in the 400-yard freestyle relay to leapfrog the Engineers into 10th place, and it did just that, taking the top spot by a mere .04 seconds. The 18 points earned by the victory gave the Banana Slugs 110 — just enough to bump Tech out of the top 10.

It was another successful day of swimming for MIT, however, as both Edwards and Racz broke Institute records en route to All-America status.

Edwards, who entered the 200-yard backstroke with a seed time of 1:52.20 and a national ranking of ninth, broke his own MIT mark in prelims, touching the wall at 1:50.34 to finish fourth. He then matched that finish in the finals, clocking in at 1:50.75 to earn 15 points and nab All-America recognition for the fourth time in three days.

Not to be outdone, Racz also earned his fourth All-America honor of the weekend in the 200-yard breaststroke. The first-year competitor entered the event with a season-best time of 2:05.07, placing him eighth in the national rankings, but bested himself by shattering the In-

stitute record with a time of 2:03.04 to place him seventh in prelims.

Then Racz one-upped himself, touching the wall at 2:02.73 in the finals to notch a sixth-place finish and 13 points. Before Racz, the school record in the 200-breast was 2:08.47, set by Matthew G. Angle '07 last year.

Jeffrey Y. Zhou '10 and Luke R. Cummings '10 also secured All-America recognition in two relay events earlier in the competition, meaning that every Tech swimmer at the championships earned the prestigious honor.

Head coach Dawn B. Gerken couldn't have been more proud of the way that her team swam over the course of the weekend, as well as the season as a whole.

"It was really a great way to end the season and the competition," she said of MIT's 11th-place finish. "For the three freshmen, it was a wonderful experience and a great start to their careers, while for Craig [Edwards], it was a terrific end to a magnificent four years of swimming for our program."

Second Half Run Dooms Lacrosse In 19-10 Loss to Visiting Endicott

By Mindy Brauer
DAPER STAFF

Eight consecutive goals to start the second half helped power Endicott College to a 19-10 victory over

MIT in non-conference women's lacrosse action last Thursday night.

Shiori Tachiwana paced the Gulls (2-0) with four goals as Casey M. Flynn '10 posted a hat-trick in her first game for the Engineers (0-1).

Emily Judd opened the scoring for Endicott after 2:27 had elapsed. Exactly one minute later, MIT evened the contest with a free position shot by Julia N. Roberts '10. The Gulls responded with four unanswered goals during the next nine minutes, with Valerie Feldman recording the first and last goals.

Flynn ended the spurt with an unassisted tally and was followed by a free position strike from Samantha F. O'Keefe '09, narrowing MIT's deficit to 5-3. Endicott then extended its advantage to 8-3 on tallies by Tachiwana, Alex Pearce, and Rebecca Bushnell. The Engineers closed the half with free position goals by Lily He '09 and O'Keefe in a span of 44 seconds.

Less than two minutes into the

second half, Feldman set up Sara Gunter for a goal that would spark the pivotal run for the Gulls. Tachiwana registered three goals, while Rebecca Bushnell, Gunter, Feldman, and Samantha Morin each scored once during the nine-minute spree.

MIT's Roberts ended a 15-minute scoring drought with a free position shot at the 18:36 mark. Judd raised the Gulls' margin to 17-6 exactly six minutes later before Lynne D. Tye '10 posted an unassisted tally for Tech. Back-to-back goals by Kristen Micho and Bushnell with less than eight minutes to play extended Endicott's lead to 19-7.

The Engineers continued to attack as Flynn registered their sixth free position goal of the night and added an unassisted goal. Amanda P. Hunter '07 capped the scoring with 17 seconds left to set up the final score.

Hunter picked up five groundballs as Flynn totaled five draw controls. Defensively, O'Keefe led the way with two caused turnovers while HecJay Kang '07 made six saves for MIT.

STUDENTS FLY CHEAPER

Sample Roundtrip Airfares From Boston to:

New York	\$99	London	\$213
Chicago	\$182	Amsterdam	\$297
Los Angeles	\$283	Paris	\$302

Terms: All fares are based on roundtrip travel and include a StudentUniverse service fee of \$35. Domestic fares include a 7% SIS transportation fee. Other taxes and fees vary, depending on the itinerary and are not included. Fares are subject to availability and change without notice. Domestic flights must be purchased 8 days in advance and require a 3-night min stay including a Sat night required min stay is 100 days. Fares valid Mon.-Thur until Mar. 30. International flights valid Mon.-Wed. Domestic fares must be purchased 7 days in advance and require a 4-night min stay including a Sat night required min stay is 100 days. International flights valid Mon.-Wed. Asia/Australia fares must be purchased 4 days in advance and require a 2-day min stay including a Sat night required min stay is 100 days. Asia fares are valid for departures through Mar. 25. Asia/Australia fares are valid for departures from Apr. 1 through Apr. 27. Blackout dates and other restrictions may apply.

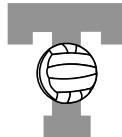
 StudentUniverse.com

UPCOMING HOME EVENTS

Tuesday, March 20, 2007

Women's Lacrosse vs. Keene State College

5:00 p.m., Jack Barry Field



Men's Volleyball vs. Johnson and Wales University

7:00 p.m., Rockwell Cage

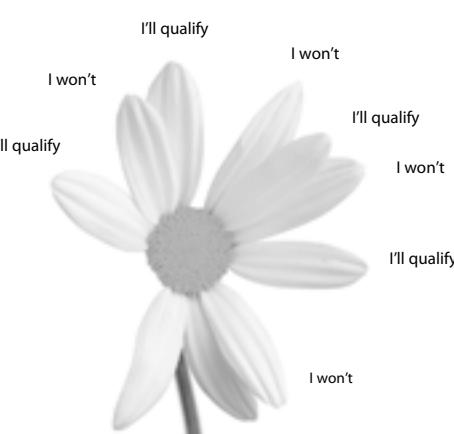
Thursday, March 22, 2007

Baseball vs. Wentworth Institute of Technology

3:00 p.m., Briggs Field

Women's Lacrosse vs. Gordon College

5:00 p.m., Jack Barry Field



Don't guess whether you qualify for the EITC. Know.

There's a lot to know about qualifying for the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). You need to work and earn less than \$34,692. If you have children, they must meet three qualifying tests. And that's just to name a few. But the most important thing to know is you can get help figuring it all out. Visit us on the web, call 1-800-TAX-1040 or ask your tax preparer. When it comes to getting help claiming everything you honestly deserve, consider it done.

This space donated by *The Tech*

1.800.TAX.1040



Internal Revenue Service
www.irs.gov/eitc

Community Lecture Series
Addir Fellows

Christianity: One Religion or Many Faiths?

Wednesday, March 21st at 6:45 pm

Main Dining Room, W11

40 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge

(Corner of Massachusetts Avenue and Amherst Street)

Professor Mark Burrows

Professor of the History of Christianity at Andover Newton Theological School and a member of the joint doctoral faculty of Boston College

MIT Interfaith Dialogue Program

Is there something we can confidently speak of as "Christian" amid the crises, diversities, and challenges facing Christian communities in our day? Christians affirm that they are worshipping one God, but (as with many other religions) the variety of conceptions, theological styles, and forms of piety vary dramatically across the spectrum of churches. Dr. Burrows will address such questions in historical and theological context.



Questions: ora@mit.edu
Website: mit.edu/dsl/addir/

Addir is a word in Ancient Sumerian which means "bridge". In the Addir Fellows Program we aspire to build bridges of dialogue and understanding. The Addir Fellows MIT Interfaith Dialogue Program is sponsored by Office of Dean for Student Life and MIT Hillel in cooperation with the Board of Chaplains